



Biodiversity Council Regional Meeting

Cooperative Conservation in the Central Valley

**April 5-6, 2006
Merced**





Awareness of Explosive Growth Initiates the Vision

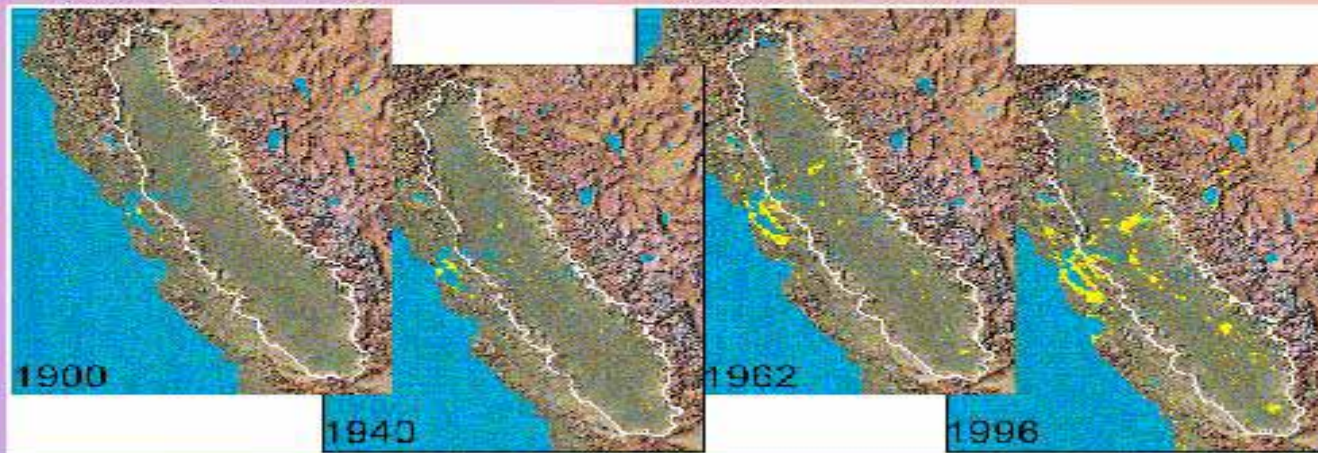


- Today, there are 6.3 million people in the Central Valley.
- By 2040, population is expected to reach 12 million.
- Source: Department of Finance



Explosive growth brings profound demographic changes

Urban Growth: California Central Valley



Data source: USGS map archives; USGS Urban Dynamics Program



***Working together to
serve the Central Valley***

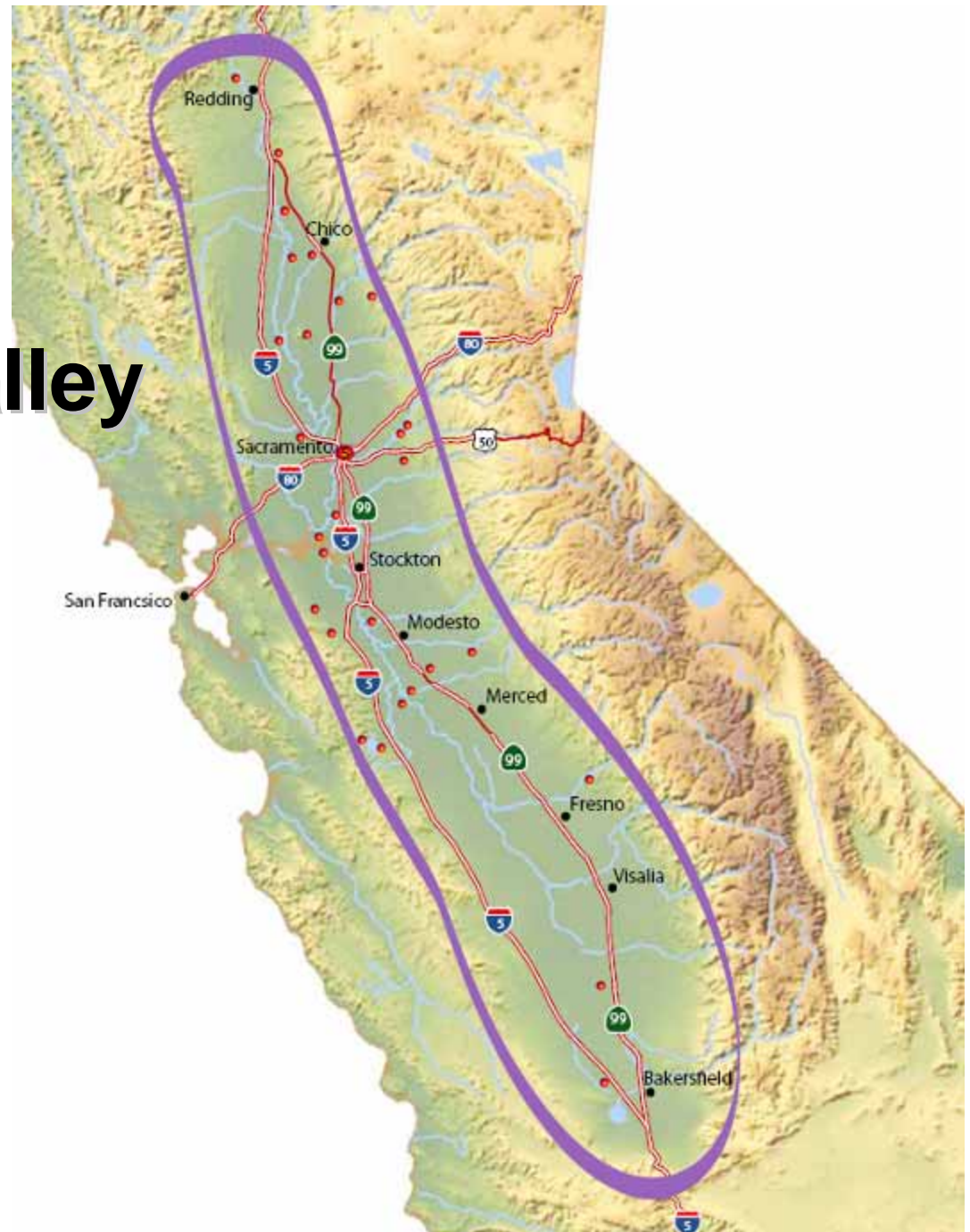
California State Parks'

Central Valley Vision



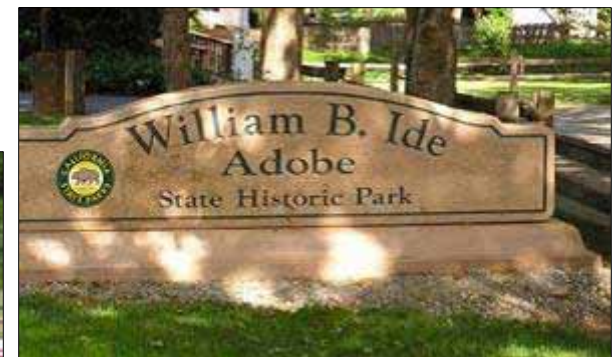
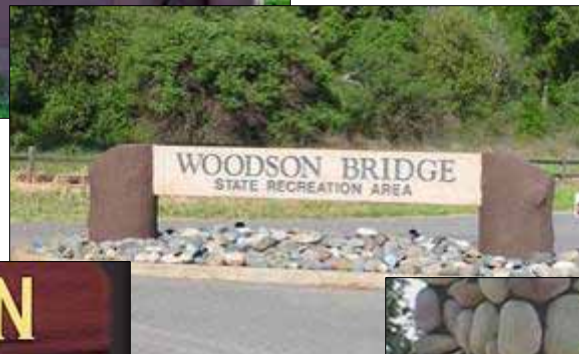


34 State Parks in the Central Valley





Diverse Parks in Central Valley





**1/3 of the State Park units with boating use &
1/4 of the State Park System's off-highway
vehicle recreation parks are in the Valley**





Central Valley's Historic & Cultural Heritage



Woodland Opera House State Historic Park



Shasta State Historic Park



Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park



Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park



Central Valley's Natural Resources



Bethany Reservoir SRA



Great Valley Grasslands SP



Caswell Memorial SP



McConnell State Recreation Area



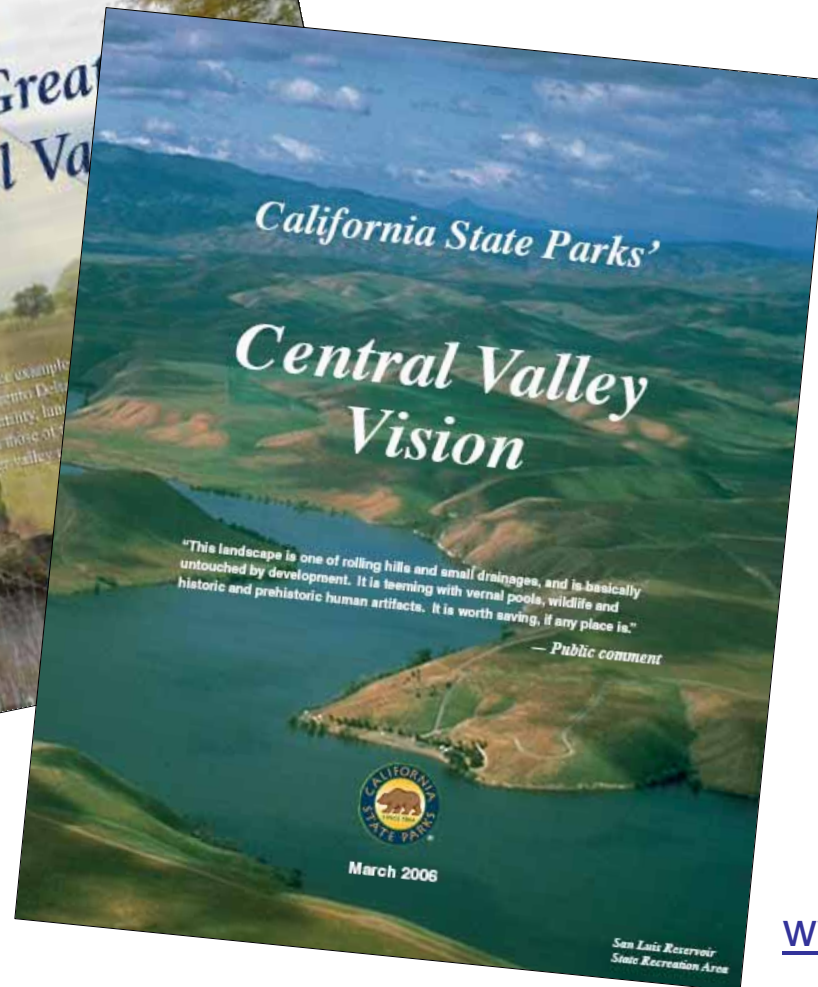
Central Valley serves as an winter habitat for migratory birds along the Pacific Flyway



Migratory Birds in Butte County



What is the Central Valley Vision?



- **20-year strategic plan**
- **Public feedback**
- **Specific actions**
- **Partnerships**

www.parks.ca.gov/centralvalley



2005 Public Outreach Meetings

Red Bluff

Chico / Woodland

Sacramento

Isleton

Stockton

Modesto

UC Merced

Madera

CSU, Fresno

Bakersfield



Great Valley Center, Modesto - September 20, 2005



What special areas or facilities would you like considered?

“Now is the time to provide some recreation facilities – before it is all roof tops!” - Public Comment

“We are sorely lacking parks and hiking trails and land that is now undeveloped may not be for long.” - Public Comment

“People need breathing space for the soul as well as the lungs, and to remember what nature looks like.” - Public Comment



Great Valley Center, Modesto



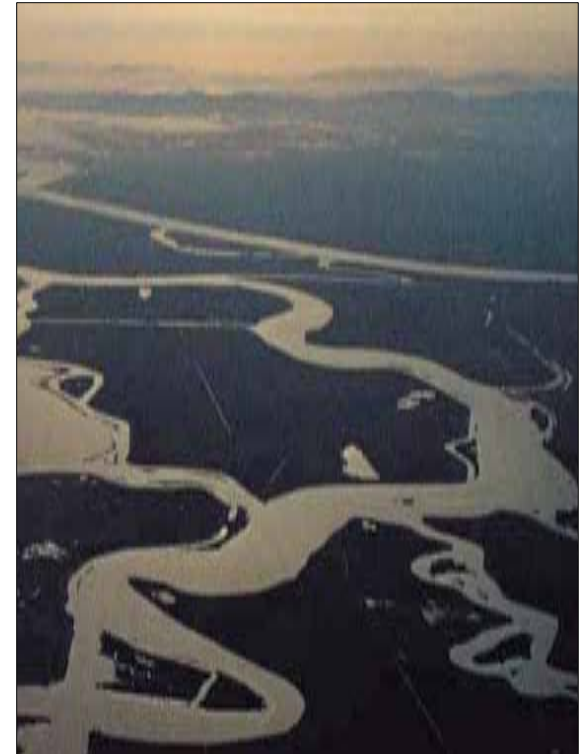
River access

- Expand water access on rivers, reservoirs, and the Delta

- Focus on linkages of land to water

| | | |
|------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Delta region | Cache Creek | Mokelumne River |
| Yuba River | Kings River | Feather River |
| Tuolumne River | Kern River | Sacramento River |
| Stanislaus River | Kaweah River | San Joaquin River |
| Cosumnes River | Merced River | American River |

- Expand existing parks on water, acquire land on rivers, and expand link to trails



Franks Tract SRA



Acquire key natural, cultural & recreation lands & corridors

Examples:

- Vernal Pools -Native Grasslands - Wetlands**
- Geological -Paleontological sites -Sacred sites**
- Blue Oak/Sycamore Woodlands -Prehistoric Rock Art**



Hikers on the popular “Path of the Padres” along Los Baños Creek



Sutter Buttes State Park

Significant natural, cultural, geologic, scenic, and recreational resource values



View from North Butte looking Northeast into the valley.



Expand Recreation Facilities & Increase high-quality recreational opportunities

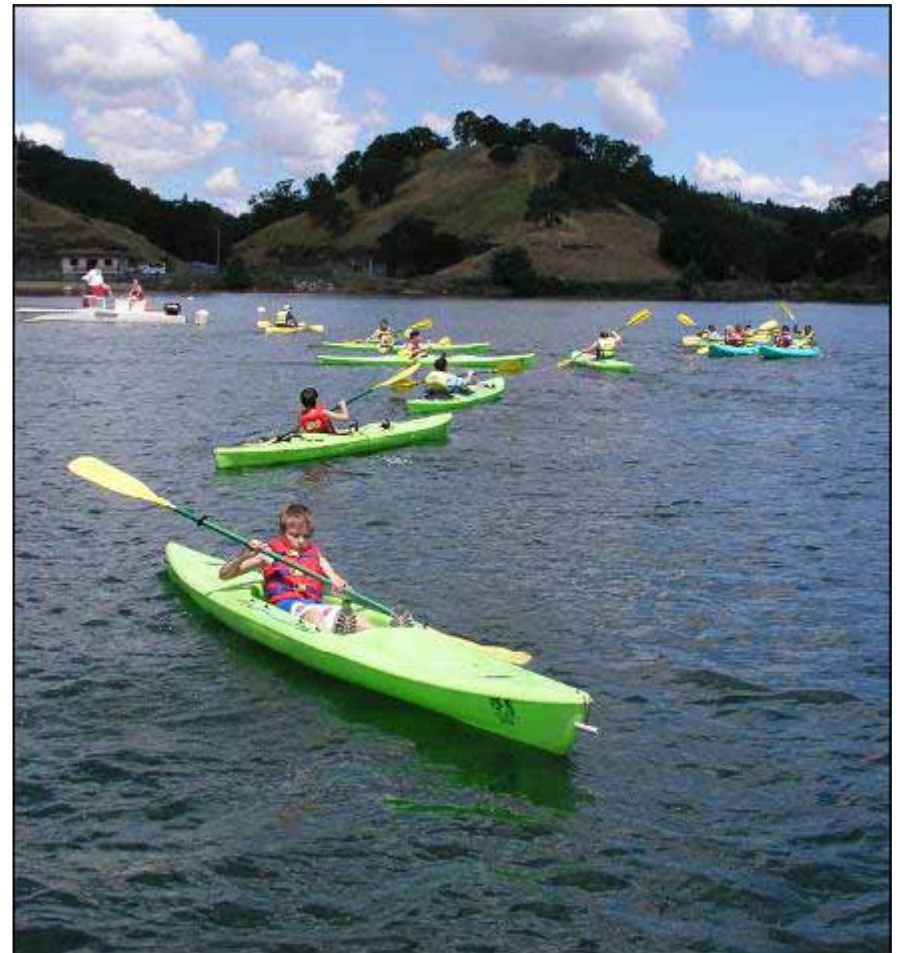
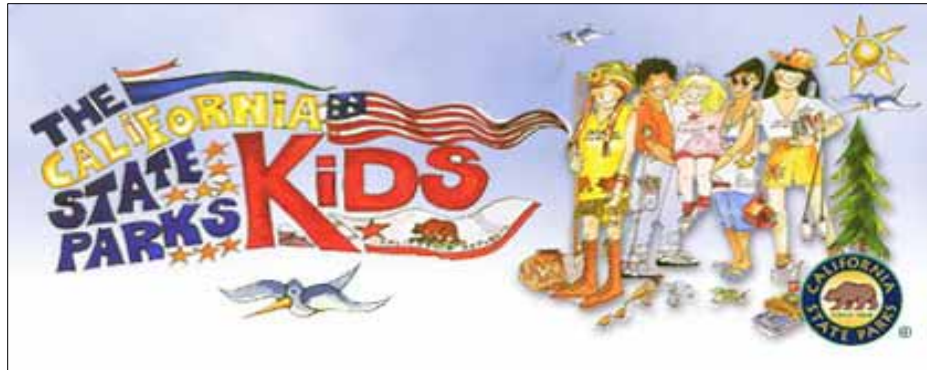


San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area



Family Recreation Programs & Activities

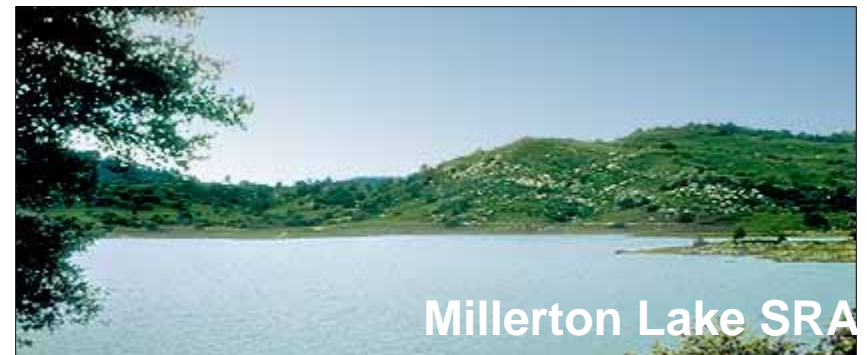
FamCamp at San Luis Reservoir SRA





Water Access Improvements

- River access for kayaks, canoes, boat fishing at Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park
- Floating campsite improvements at Lake Oroville
- Boat ramp widening at Brannan Island & San Luis Reservoir
- New boat ramp at Great Valley Grasslands
- New floating docks at Millerton Lake





Increased number of camping facilities





Alternative Camping Facilities

Implementing alternative camping facilities at State Recreation Areas



Cabins



Yurts



Floating campsites

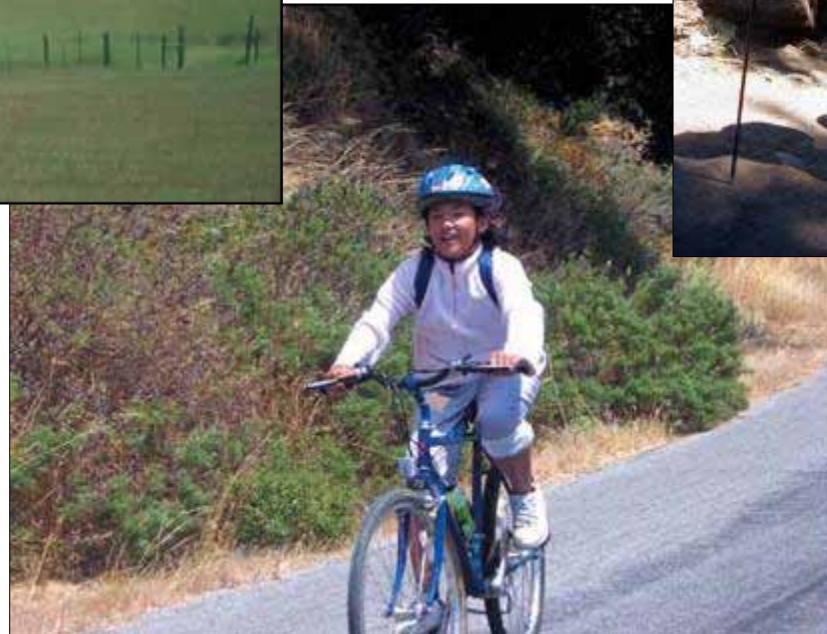


Tent cabins



Increased trail recreation opportunities

21st California Trails and Greenways Conference May 5-7, 2006





OHMVR Parks

Partnering with Kern County and the City of Bakersfield to identify and develop an off-highway vehicle recreation area



Prairie City SVRA





Preserve and interpret the Central Valley's History



Great valley Grasslands State Park



Shasta State Historic Park



Increased education & interpretation

To keep a fun-filled day on the water from becoming tragic, follow these simple rules:

Tips for Safe and Fun Boating



Use life preservers
Carry a proper-fitting Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device for each person on board. Adult life preservers for children under age 12 to wear a life jacket. U.S. Coast Guard states the vessel is to always. For everyone's safety, all boaters should wear one when on the water.

Don't drink and operate a boat
It is dangerous and against the law to operate a boat while intoxicated. Intoxicated passengers are also at risk of falling overboard and drowning.

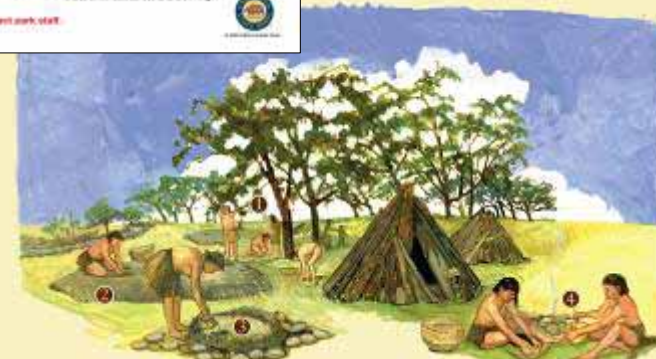
Watch your speed
The speed limit is 5 mph within 200 feet of a swimming beach or boat dock, and within 100 feet of a swimmer. Follow all posted signs.

Check other safety equipment
Do you have a fire extinguisher, anchor, signal device, radio, and/or cell phone? Know BEFORE you go!

Beware of underwater hazards
Changing water levels may expose rocks or other hazards, or holes, then just below the surface. Stay in the main channel when boating.

Inhaling carbon monoxide can be dangerous
Boat use prohibits the dangerous practice of "coasting," or "lean surfing," "tailing a boat." Anyone near the boat's engine or exhaust is exposed to carbon monoxide, which can cause a loss of consciousness and drowning.

If you need assistance or have questions, contact park staff.

AUTUMN HARVEST

For centuries, acorns have been a major food source for many California Indian groups. Each tribe had ways to strip, leached acorns, could be used as soup, mixed with fat, or meat, or baked into a cake.

- In autumn, Indian people filled their carrying baskets with acorns from beneath the oak trees.
- They cracked and shelled the dried acorns. Following time-honored practices, they pounded the acorn meal into meal using bedrock mortars—holes worn into slabs of rock.
- The acorn meal was then transferred to a shallow, sandy basin lined with leaves or grass, where it was gently poured over the meal to wash out the bitter tannin acid.
- Finally, the meal was mixed with water in large buckets to form a soup or mush and cooked by heated rocks placed into the buckets.

In good harvest years surplus acorns were traded to other Indian groups in exchange for useful goods—such as shells, skins, stone and pine nuts—that were abundant in other regions.



Highway 99: backbone of the San Joaquin Valley

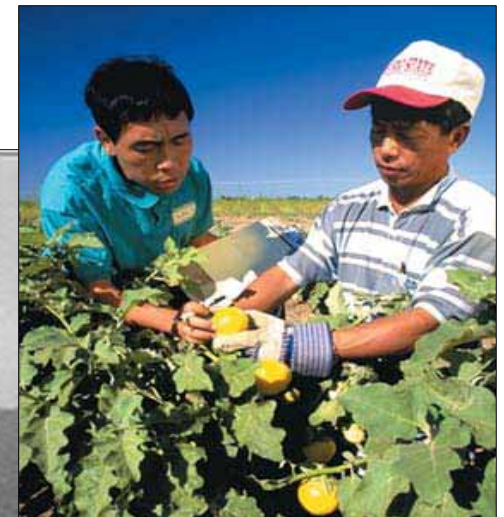
Working with Caltrans and the Great Valley Center to develop interpretive programs to tell the many stories of the Highway 99 corridor





Critical Role of Agriculture

Working with CDFA to promote role of agriculture and locally grown produce. Promote the interpretation of agricultural history and current practices





Support to Local parks

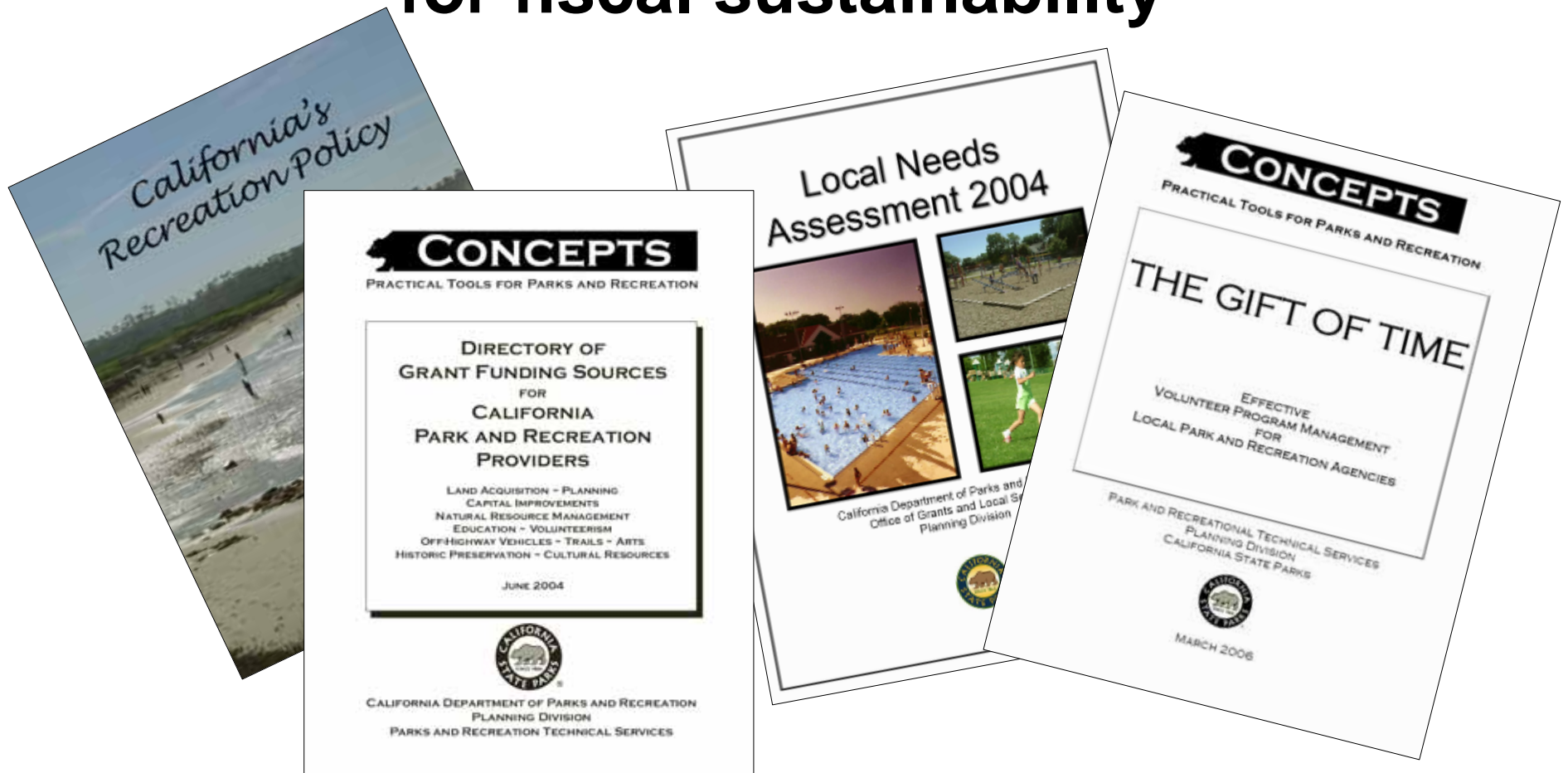
Effectively distributing funding for parks and recreation facilities for Central Valley residents





More Technical Assistance

Providing technical assistance to local partners, including training in grant writing for fiscal sustainability





Community Involvement

Increasing community involvement programs in the Central Valley to improve access to parks & recreation





Working together to serve the Central Valley:

Examples:

- Local community residents**
- Non-profits land trusts**
- Private land owners**
- Economic funding partners**
- Local, state and federal agencies**





Successful Partnerships

San Joaquin River Parkway





Department of Fish & Game

North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve



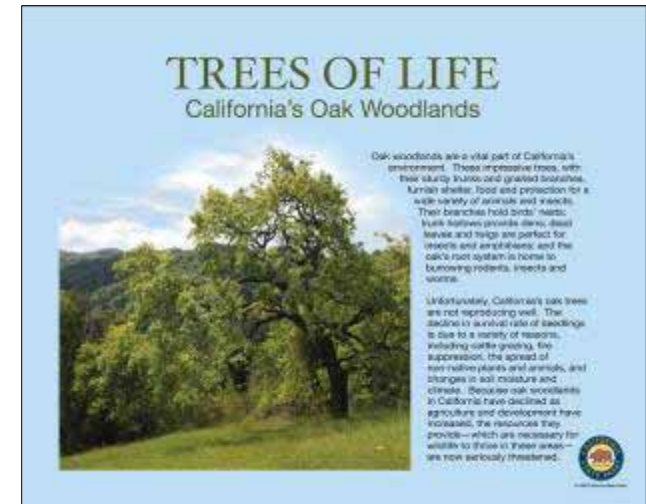
Table Mountain Waterfall
Butte County



What's Next?

As funding and time allow:

- Continue to build partnerships
- River inventory to help prioritize
- Increase recreation opportunities
- Increase interpretive signs





Inventory protected lands & public open space in the Valley

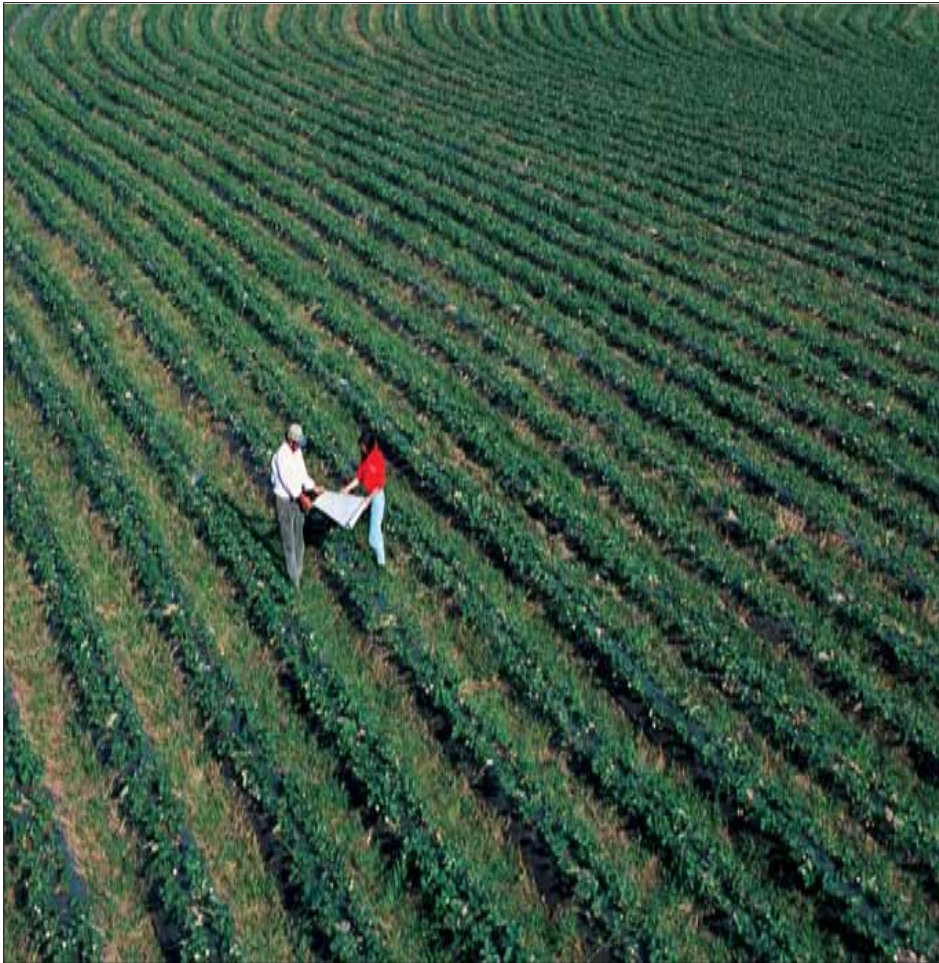
- Working with the California Council of Land Trusts and the Great Valley Center
 - Protected Areas
 - Open Space



Pacheco State Park



Healthy Foods Initiative





Provide additional river access and visitor facilities

- Work with Department of Boating and Waterways

Colusa-Sacramento River SRA





Historic Preservation of Locke

Collecting and preserving oral histories of the residents of the historic community of Locke in the Delta





Working Together to Serve the Central Valley for the long term...

